

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5880
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NICOSIA 1352

USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD; USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CY, UR, BU, CZ
SUBJECT: EAST EUROPEAN VISITS TO CYPRUS

REF: NICOSIA 1300 (DTG 161548Z MAY 77)

1. SUMMARY: THREE SOVIET BLOC DELEGATIONS CONVERGED ON
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CYPRUS MAY 12-19. VISIT OF CZECHOSLOVAK FONMIN PRODUCED AN
ANODYNE COMMUNIQUE. USSR SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION CAME AS
GUESTS OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. BULGARIAN DELEGATION TO
PERMANENT CYPRIOT-BULGARIAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION WAS
A SCHEDULED ANNUAL AFFAIR CONCERNED PRIMARILY WITH TRADE.
MAKARIOS USED BLOC VISITS TO REMIND THE WEST THAT CYPRUS HAS
OTHER FRIENDS AND POLICY OPTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. A JOINT CYPRIOT-CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED MAY 16, FOLLOWING THE DEPARTURE OF CZECHOSLOVAK FONMIN BOHUSLAV CHNOUPEK FROM CYPRUS (REFTEL). TEXT AS RELEASED HERE WAS AN INSIGNIFICANT CATCHALL. CHNOUPEK AND GOC FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES FOUND "FULL IDENTITY OR SIMILARITY" OF VIEWS ON VARIETY ISSUES: E.G. PRESENT, POSITIVE STATE OF MUTUAL RELATIONS; PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN RELAXING INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS; DISARMAMENT AND DETENTE; OPPOSITION TO RACISM AND COLONIALISM AND NECESSITY FOR VICTORIOUS TERMINATION OF LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN AFRICA; SUPPORT FOR U.N.; ABSENCE OF EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE IN S.E. ASIA, LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATION FOR VIETNAM, DEMOCRATIC UNIFICATION OF KOREA; NATURE OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT.

3. ON CYPRUS, COMMUNIQUE EXPRESSED "DEEP CONCERN" AT LACK OF SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS TOWARD SOLUTION, ENDORSED JUST AND LASTING SETTLEMENT WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY BY NEGOTIATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH U.N. RESOLUTIONS, CALLED FOR END TO ALL FOREIGN INTERVENTION AND FOR RESPECT FOR INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND NON-ALIGNMENT OF CYPRUS. COMMUNIQUE MADE NO MENTION OF ANY BILATERAL AGREEMENTS REACHED OR SIGNED BUT INDICATED BOTH SIDES HAD EXAMINED POSSIBILITY OF CONCLUDING FURTHER AGREEMENTS IN FUTURE.

4. FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT IN NEGOTIATING THE COMMUNIQUE GOC HAD SUCCESSFULLY RESISTED CZECH EFFORTS TO INCLUDE CALLS FOR (A) WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS FROM KOREA AND (B) AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.
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GOC OPPOSED LATTER ON GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD GIVE TURKS PROPAGANDA OPPORTUNITY TO CLAIM GREEKS WERE TRYING TO THWART THE PRESENT INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATION.

5. DELEGATION OF USSR SUPREME SOVIET VISITED CYPRUS MAY 13-19 AT INVITATION OF CYPRIOT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU, WHO WAS GOC FOREIGN MINISTER 1960-72 AND HAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY BEEN PROMOTING PARLIAMENT-TO-PARLIAMENT CONTACTS AS IMPORTANT TO KEEP CYPRUS QUESTION CENTER STAGE INTERNATIONALLY (AND BOOST HIS SAGGING POLITICAL FORTUNES IN CYPRUS). EIGHT-MAN SOVIET DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY ALEKSEY SHITIKOV, CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME SOVIET COUNCIL OF THE UNION AND THE DELEGATION'S SPOKESMAN. DURING VISIT DELEGATION MET WITH ITS HOST SPYROS KYPRIANOU, CYPRIOT PARLIAMENTARY PARTY LEADERS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, GOC FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES, GREEK CYPRIOT NEGOTIATOR TASSOS PAPADOPOULOS, AND GROUPS REPRESENTING GREEK CYPRIOT REFUGEES AND MISSING PERSONS. ON MAY 16 DELEGATION WAS RECEIVED BY ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS WHO EXPRESSED HIS "DEEPEST APPRECIATION" FOR SOVIET UNION'S "CON-

STRUCTIVE STAND AND INTEREST" IN CYPRUS ISSUE AND IN A POINTED ANTI-US REMARK ADDED, "A STAND WHICH IS BASED ON INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLES AND NOT ON ANY EXPEDIENCES IRRELEVANT TO THE CYPRUS ISSUE."

6. IN MULTIPLE PUBLIC STATEMENTS SHITIKOV REPEATED BASIC COMPONENTS OF SOVIET POLICY TOWARDS CYPRUS; E.G. USSR SUPPORTS PRESERVATION OF INDEPENDENCE; SOVEREIGNTY, AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF UNITARY AND NON-ALIGNED CYPRUS; CYPRIOTS HAVE THE ABSOLUTE RIGHT TO SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS WITHOUT FOREIGN INTERFERENCE BY PROPERLY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE INTERESTS OF BOTH COMMUNITIES; ALL FOREIGN TROOPS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE ISLAND; THE SOVIET UNION INSISTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CYPRUS-RELATED U.N. RESOLUTIONS AND ON THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR THE CONVENING ON AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO DEAL WITH "THE INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS" OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
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6. BULGARIAN DELEGATION VISITED NICOSIA MAY 14-19 PURSUANT TO 1976 AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN CYPRUS AND BULGARIA, ARTICLE 6 OF WHICH PROVIDES FOR PERIODIC MEETINGS BY PERMANENT CYPRIOT-BULGARIAN INTERGOVERNMENT COMMISSION TO REVIEW THE AGREEMENT. (THE NEXT SUCH MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN BULGARIA IN 1978.) PROF. ANGEL CHAUSER (TSAOUSSOR), CHAIRMAN OF THE LABOR AND WAGES CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, BULGARIAN

DELEGATION WHICH MET MAY 16-18 WITH GOC MINISTER OF FINANCE PATSALIDES, MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY PIERIDES, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF PLANNING BUREAU ARISTIDOU, AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE AZINAS. PROTOCOL SIGNED BY CHAUSER AND PATSALIDES INDICATED PERMANENT CYPRIOT-BULGARIAN INTERGOVERNMENT COMMISSION HAD REVIEWED COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES TO DATE, IDENTIFIED POSSIBLE PROBLEMS IMPEDING FURTHER COOPERATION, EXCHANGED ECONOMIC INFORMATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES TO FACILITATE COOPERATION.

7. COMMENT: AS NOTED REFTTEL, THE PROBABLY COINCIDENTAL CONVERGENCE OF THESE THREE VISITS HAS CREATED HERE AN IMPRESSION OF INCREASED SOVIET BLOC INTEREST IN CYPRUS. THE VISITS HAVE BEEN EXPLOITED BY MAKARIOS AND HIS MEDIA TO TRY TO SHOW GREEK CYPRIOTS AND THE WEST THAT HE HAS OTHER FRIENDS AND POLICY OPTIONS. IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS DURING VISITS AND SINCE, GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS DEVELOPED ON MAKARIOS' FULSOME REFERENCE TO EAST'S ALLEGEDLY POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO CYPRUS PROBLEM AND CONTRASTED THIS WITH WHAT IS PICTURED AS POOR PERFORMANCE OF US AND CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S FAILURE TO FULFILL ITS PROMISES ON CYPRUS.
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